

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. In this listing, claims 79 and 85 have been amended and claims 96-104 have been added.

1-78. (Cancelled)

79. (Currently amended) A method of implanting a structure in body tissue that includes an elongated, laterally curved, body tissue conduit comprising:

providing delivery instrumentation having an elongated portion that is laterally curved to approximately correspond to lateral curvature of the body tissue conduit; and

providing a cannulator that is more rigid than the delivery instrumentation;

inserting the cannulator and the delivery instrumentation substantially coaxially into the body tissue conduit; and

providing relative axial movement between the cannulator and the delivery instrumentation so that the lateral curvature of the delivery instrumentation causes the delivery instrumentation to angularly orient itself relative to the body tissue conduit to superimpose the lateral curvature of the delivery instrumentation and the body tissue conduit on one another.

80. (Previously Presented) The method defined in claim 79 further comprising:

dispensing the structure from the delivery instrumentation with a predetermined angular orientation

relative to the lateral curvature of the delivery instrumentation.

81. (Original) Apparatus for implanting a structure in a laterally curved, elongated, body tissue conduit comprising:
 elongated delivery instrumentation adapted to be received substantially coaxially in the conduit, the delivery instrumentation having lateral curvature corresponding to the lateral curvature of the conduit so that the delivery instrumentation tends to orient itself angularly about its longitudinal axis with its curvature substantially following the curvature of the conduit, the delivery instrumentation being adapted to deliver the structure into the conduit with a predetermined angular orientation about a longitudinal axis of the delivery instrumentation.

82. (Original) The apparatus defined in claim 81 wherein the delivery instrumentation is laterally flexible.

83. (Original) The apparatus defined in claim 81 wherein the lateral curvature is in a relatively distal portion of the delivery instrumentation, and wherein a more proximal portion of the delivery instrumentation has additional lateral curvature for facilitating entry of the distal portion into the body tissue conduit.

84. (Original) The apparatus defined in claim 83 wherein the lateral curvature is compound with the additional lateral curvature.

85. (Currently amended) Apparatus for use with a laterally curved, elongated body tissue conduit comprising:

elongated instrumentation adapted to be received substantially coaxially in the conduit; and
a cannulator that is more rigid than the delivery instrumentation and is adapted to be received substantially coaxially in the conduit with the elongated instrumentation, wherein, the instrumentation having lateral curvature corresponding to the lateral curvature of the conduit so that the instrumentation, when removed from the cannulator, tends to orient itself angularly about its longitudinal axis with its curvature substantially following the curvature of the conduit.

86. (Original) The apparatus defined in claim 85 wherein the instrumentation includes means for delivering an implant with a predetermined angular relationship to the lateral curvature of the instrumentation.

87. (Original) The apparatus defined in claim 86 wherein the means for delivering delivers the implant into the conduit.

88. (Original) The apparatus defined in claim 86 wherein the means for delivering delivers the implant at a location outside the conduit.

89-95. (Cancelled)

96. (New) The method defined in claim 79, wherein the body tissue conduit is the coronary sinus.

97. (New) The method defined in claim 80, wherein the structure is an anchor.

98. (New) The method defined in claim 97, wherein the anchor is a helical anchor.

99. (New) The apparatus defined in claim 81, wherein the body tissue conduit is the coronary sinus.

100. (New) The apparatus defined in claim 81, wherein the structure is an anchor.

101. (New) The apparatus defined in claim 100, wherein the anchor is a helical anchor.

102. (New) The apparatus defined in claim 85, wherein the body tissue conduit is the coronary sinus.

103. (New) The apparatus defined in claim 86, wherein the implant is an anchor.

104. (New) The apparatus defined in claim 103, wherein the anchor is a helical anchor.